

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03807 101501Z
ACTION OC-06

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8471
INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3807

KARACHI FOR RCO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AEMR, AVCE
SUBJECT: IMPROVEMENT OF KUWAIT'S VEHICLE RADIO SYSTEM

1. WE HAVE JUST TESTED TYPE 90 ENCODE AND MT-76 RADIO RECENTLY INSTALLED IN NEW COM VEHICLE. THE ROAD TEST OF THIS SYSTEM SHOWED THAT, LIKE OTHER VEHICLE RADIOS, TRANSMISSION BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND KUWAIT AIRPORT (14 MI) AND THE POST CITY OF AHMADI (30 MI) IS IMPOSSIBLE. BOTH THESE ARE KEY POINTS IN OUR E&E PLAN AND IF WE ARE UNABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEM BY RADIO, ANY EVACUATION EFFORTS WOULD BE SEVERELY HAMPERED.

2. WE THEREFORE NEED TO INCREASE THE RANGE OF OUR VEHICLE RADIOS. IS THERE ANOTHER TYPE OF VEHICLE RADIO WHICH HAS GREATER RANGE THAN THE PRESENT MT-76S AND THE BASE STATION? ONE ALTERNATE WE HAVE CONSIDERED IS TO ASK THE HILTON HOTEL (LOCATED ACROSS THE STREET) TO LET US PUT OUR BASE STATION ANTENNA ON TOP OF THE HOTEL THEREBY INCREASING ITS RANGE. (THE HOTEL IS EIGHT STORIES HIGH, WHILE THE PRESENT ANTENNA LOCATION IS ATOP OUR THREE-STORY STAFF APARTMENT BUILDING.) HOWEVER, THIS WOULD REQUIRE THAT THE ANTENNA ON THE HILTON BE CONNECTED TO OUR EMBASSY GEAR BY
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A LAND-LINE (WHICH WILL BE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN)
OR VIA SOME SORT OF WIRELESS REPEATER.

3. BEFORE WE PROCEED, WOULD APPRECIATE OC'S ADVICE ON WHAT CAN BE DONE TO INCREASE OUR RANGE AND IMPROVE OUR RADIO COVERAGE. IF HILTON ANTENNA IDEA SEEMS TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE, IS REPEATER EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE? IS

A MORE POWERFUL VEHICLE RADIO AVAILABLE?

MAESTRONE

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